

# The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have printed articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

## The Growing Importance of Military Aeronautics.

The plan attributed to the new Secretary of War, Mr. DICKINSON, of establishing on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida a dirigible airship service, including bases or stations 250 miles apart, is so elaborate and ambitious that knowing how little the Signal Corps has been able to do in the way of military aeronautics, and how sceptical and indifferent Congress is when asked for an adequate appropriation, we cannot restrain a smile at the sudden enthusiasm of the War Department.

The Germans might talk as grandiloquently of an aeronautical system of defence and reconnaissance, for they possess the Zeppelin, Parseval and Gross dirigibles and have conducted experiments on a large and successful scale, sparing no expense. Our War Department has no money to spend, no equipment to speak of, and the experience of the Signal Corps in aeronautics is very limited. It is not the fault of the Department, but its misfortune. It possesses Captain THOMAS BALDWIN's Dirigible No. 1, which on its official trial flew for two hours and scored twenty-seven miles in that time. A good beginning has therefore been made by the Signal Corps, but with due regard for Lieutenant LAHM's energy and optimism we think that he was rather oversteering the case when he said recently: "With the experience gained from this small airship the Signal Corps is now in a position to proceed with the construction of a larger and more powerful one, capable of rendering valuable service in case of war." The truth is that the aeronautical accomplishments of the corps are as yet meagre, and it has not mastered the fundamentals of the new locomotion. It could not be otherwise when Congress has denied the corps money for its experiments and dashed its enthusiasm with stolid indifference. We shall here quote a significant paragraph from the latest report of the Secretary of War:

"During the past year the Signal Corps has purchased under contract satisfactory test a small dirigible balloon capable of carrying two persons and having a speed of twenty miles an hour, and this machine is at present being used for the training of officers and men. As a result of efforts to secure a heavier than air flying machine twenty-four bids were received and contracts were awarded to A. M. HERRING of New York city and the Wright brothers of Dayton, Ohio. The Herring machine is not yet ready for testing, and although the preliminary tests of the Wright brothers' aeroplane at Fort Myer, Virginia, have publicly demonstrated the practicability of mechanical flight, the contract with them has not yet been completely closed."

Doubtless the Wright aeroplane would have been secured but for the accident that cost Lieutenant THOMAS E. SELF-RIDGE his life. It was deplorable, but why should the Government have hesitated to acquire an aeroplane that had already proved that aerial flight was practicable? The official answer is that Mr. ORVILLE WRIGHT, who was himself injured at the time, had not satisfied the tests demanded of his aeroplane, and having no autocratic powers the War Department could not disregard the terms of the contract and accept the invention on its general merits.

In the eyes of the world as the country that has made the greatest progress with heavier than air flying machines the United States is very backward in availing itself of the genius of its inventors. In the operation of aeroplanes the Signal Corps of the army should be already proficient, and if proper encouragement had been given to experimenters it should certainly be abreast of the British and French if not the German military authorities in handling the large self-supporting dirigibles. The whole subject is of such importance to theoretical warfare that before the session of Congress in December Secretary DICKINSON should discuss it thoroughly in his annual report and urge that Congress make a liberal appropriation for aeronautical equipment and training. There is no longer reason to doubt that the army deficient in airships will be at a terrible disadvantage in a campaign.

## The Sugar of Our Youth.

Ever since our modest protest last week against the total occultation of old fashioned sugar as a logical sequence of the modern tariff we have been hearing from various sources complaints and reproaches to the same effect.

It does not astonish us at all to find that thousands of American citizens still long for the familiar saccharine of adolescence. There was a certain charm about the old brown sugar and the thick molasses—we say nothing of the cuite, the taffy, the syrup and the "bleedings." Neither shall we dwell

upon the sumptuous haze that brooded over all the sugar making districts, the "skimmings" that fed horses, mules, cattle, dogs, poultry, &c., until human beings grew fat and healthy and beasts of all degrees were infused with new life and energy. These are nursery tales to-day, though true enough and purely local; but there can be no doubt that the simple, untutored sugars of long ago, together with their accessories and by products, still linger in the memory of the experienced and produce by their absence a vacuum that delivers every heart to pain.

Of course we recognize the advantages of the new dispensation. Sugar was high in the market under the old impudent and wasteful processes. It is not so many years ago that common brown sugar from the Louisiana kettles cost twice as much as the beautiful white cut article costs to-day. Thousands of barrels of molasses once sold at negligible prices are now converted into pure white crystals. Nevertheless the disappearance of quondam good things has brought sorrow to many a home, and to ours among them.

## The Black Fireman in the Engine Cab.

We had been cherishing the delusion that the South possessed no better friend than THE SUN. The Augusta Herald informs us, to our immeasurable astonishment, that we belong to "the rabid, narrow Northern press," that we are "at work again slandering the South," and that we are "now engaged in the gentle task of saying mean and untrue things about Georgia and her people."

This refers, we suppose, to whatever we have said or may be saying about the attitude of HOKE SMITH's Administration toward the movement of the labor unionists to exclude the colored firemen from the locomotives.

We shall understand better wherein we have offended when our esteemed contemporary has explained one thing.

It disposes of the negro fireman and his chance at a livelihood in this summary manner:

"You can't run a railroad roughshod over the interests or the prejudices or the traditions of an entire people."

What we ask is simply this: Who is it that has been running the railroads of Georgia roughshod over the interests, prejudices and traditions of an entire people, in the matter of negro firemen, for the last forty or fifty years?

## The Dream of a College President.

Writing in the *Atlantic Monthly* on "Competition in College," President LOWELL of Harvard regrets the notorious fact that athletic achievements and glory have taken the place of intellectual in the American colleges. Competition in scholarship has ceased to be important, has been "almost banished," Mr. LOWELL says, and he makes the elective system which has spread with more or less virulence from Cambridge to the remotest cause of the decay in intercollegiate athletics is and has been the most frantic in institutions that have deviated the least or the most gradually from the old rigid path of prescribed studies. Respectful praises of past time as we are, and ready to admit that most of the college men who have amounted to much were bred under the ancient system, still we cannot forget how lifeless and barren most of that ancient teaching must have been, how distasteful to professor and student, how bereft of intellectual charm. Whatever be the faults of the elective system, it is not in nature that it can be dull in the imparting or more trivial in effect than its predecessor.

It is true, as Mr. LOWELL tells us, that in the English universities there is none of the American contempt for scholarship. There there seems to be a visible, tangible relation between the prizes of scholarship and those of life.

The Oxford and Cambridge men are firmly persuaded that success at the bar, in public life and in other fields is closely connected with high honors at graduation; and the contest for them is correspondingly keen. The prizes and honors are made widely known; they are remembered throughout a man's life, referred to even in brief notices of him—much as his athletic feats are here—and they certainly do help him powerfully to get a start in his career. The result is that by the time the man there is probably more hard study done in subjects not of a professional character than in any other universities in the world."

There is no such relation in this country. We may count up all the obscure professors and assistant professors and miscellaneous obscurities in "Who's Who" to celebrate the superiority of the college graduate, but his value is necessarily diminished by his commonness. If Harvard and Yale were the only two universities in the United States, their majesty, power and prestige and that of their graduates would be something fine, provided an unfeeling proletariat had a proper respect for dons, bigwigs, seals and sheepskins. But universities are almost as numerous in the United States as university men are in England. We all go to college, more because their fathers did, than because their fathers didn't. Doting mothers tell us with a proud smile that JOHN has decided to go to old Dumbellia or old Sprinton because it's a good athletic college.

How those sour faced old seventeenth century cranks who had to read the Hebrew Testament and the Greek at ungodly hours, swab their faces under the pump in the yard in those beautiful temperatures when the president's ink would freeze in front of the fire—how they would wonder at our elegant youth playing with everything from automobiles to wireless telegraphy! Clergymen, to keep up the breed of whom our wise and pious ancestors founded colleges, are practically extinct in them. Lawyers, doctors, teachers—and then miscellaneous business men. For on business our undergraduate, willing to work as soon as he goes out of college, more and more turns his eyes. Let those who know well any one college—and in spite of their eternal amusing jealousies and "college spirit" they are substantially alike—let those who

know compare the college they know with the college as it appears in Mr. LOWELL's imagination:

"Universities stand for the eternal worth of thought, for the preeminence of the prophet and the seer."

Read "the preeminence of the athlete and the business man." "That sweet city with her dreaming spires" is become Broadway, Wall Street. Now, there is no reason why a business man shouldn't be a sound scholar. Mr. GHOSE, banker and non-university man, made what is still the standard history of Greece. There are hotels kept by college men. Among the curious professions of the members of a recent Harvard class we remember that of "hotel steward." No reason why a hotel proprietor or steward shouldn't daily with Icelandic or put Mr. TAFT's speeches into Attic prose, but he would hardly get the training for that sort of thing at college. The atmosphere is lacking. There are many men studying, poor men with scholarships because they have to, and to their honor, some rich ones, who are not ashamed of knowledge. There are somewhere about them professors and assistant professors, and candidates for Ph. D., and other marks of aberration, who work hard and fruitfully at a census of the rough breathings in LYCOPHON or the Social Position of "Dragons in the Anglo-Saxon Epic Poetry."

There are the mighty men on team and crew and in the sciences, noble heroes who weep like a Greek hero when they happen to be beaten in a race or a match. There are the amiable though somewhat fantastically dressed young savages who howl horrible mechanical yells and cheers at the games where the champions perform; young savages so courteous, we hear, as to make a joyful noise at the errors of the enemy. The amiable savages have dailies, weeklies, magazines, settlement work, amateur theatricals, glee and other musical clubs, a hundred side shows and diversions. Their life is a little more diversified than, but substantially on the same plane as that, let us say, of the bank clerks of Worcester, Mass., or the Canoe and Mandolin Club of West Hurley, N. Y. Harmless, innocent, savage only in their collective public manners and lack of cultivation, devoted to athletics by proxy, a source of pride and expense to parents and guardians, often almost as ignorant as themselves, these young men are as happy as artless. We beg Mr. LOWELL, forgiveable still since he was swift as to his feet in youth, not to lay his hand with horror winged upon that comfortable, that idyllic commonwealth, the college, and try to introduce this infernal nonsense of intellectual competition. We Americans are a long suffering people, but we don't want brains in our colleges or our rulers.

If, however, Mr. LOWELL persists in his wrongheadedness, perhaps some day he may come across an eccentric Fairy Godfather who will say to him: "How much does your college get in terms fees? I will capitalize that income. How many men are graduated from your college every year? Is it 400 or 600 odd or what? Well, let 'em go to the devil. Turn out twenty, turn out two, but let 'em know something; let 'em be scholars." Would that help Mr. LOWELL's plan or dream?

## Love and Trade Corralled.

The May number of the *Bulletin of the International Union of the American Republics*, an attractive publication of two or three hundred pages, comes to our desk with characteristic sprightliness. It is particularly interesting this month, for in addition to the usual pictorial and literary miscellany from Spanish American countries it has twenty-three pages devoted to a full and true account of the banquet tendered to Secretary of State KNOX and a large number of distinguished guests by the Hon. JOHN BARRETT, who by an interesting coincidence happened to be the Director of the International Bureau.

Now that we are reminded of it we recall the incident distinctly. It was a beautiful and sumptuous affair, graced by the presence of the Vice-President, Secretary KNOX, Speaker CANNON, Senator ROOT, Minority Leader CHAMP CLARE, nearly all the Spanish American envoys and many of their secretaries, &c., to say nothing of a large number of selected newspaper men, nearly all housebroken and educated to a wire edge in table manners in the finishing school of the Gridiron Club. The published notices next day were most elaborate, in fact Mr. BARRETT kindly reproduces those of the Washington papers in his Pan-American bulletin; but the world would never have known the finer meanings and significances of the function otherwise.

For example, "the decorations deserve particular mention, because they were unique in their effect and because of the draping of the flags and colors of all the republics they were emblematic of the purpose of the gathering and of the institution they represented." We learn that "the hall" was alternately darkened and illuminated, and some light is thrown upon this theatrical *chef d'œuvre* by Mr. BARRETT himself in his opening speech, as follows:

"I am about to propose the health of the Presidents of the American republics. In response there will be played the orchestra strains from the national anthems of each of the American republics. In view of the time that will be occupied for this I ask you all to wait the ordinary courtesy of respect of rising and remain seated during the playing of these strains. There will be displayed with the playing of these hymns the national flag of each country, followed by one or two scenes, thrown by the stereopticon upon the screen, of the countries which they represent."

We assume as a matter of course that the honest hunger of the company had been appeased and the cigars brought on before this highly entertaining spectacular feature. In that case it must have been impetuous. Pitch dark one moment, blazing and blinding the next; flags, strains, extra scenes on the stereopticon—and all this on a full stomach with a fat cigar in hand! It has never been made clear to us until now. The newspaper reports at the

time were garrulous and reminiscent, but meretricious. We see it all at last. Director BARRETT's editorial in the *Bulletin*, apropos of Mr. JOHN BARRETT's banquet, admonishes us that "the unmistakable voice of all present was that the ties binding together the republics of America should be made stronger by continued proofs of friendship and by practical efforts to make commerce more direct and more expeditious."

More banquets, more screens, more strains, more entrées, and above all more publication, and affection will come to roost upon our eaves, while commerce, once so shy and timid, will cut out of our hands and purr and rub against our conquering, complacent legs.

## Fusion Without Division.

The smallest utterance of a great leader in campaign time is of course significant. There are, indeed, certain periods in politics when the greatest utterance of a small leader may command attention. In this latter category we are sure the remarks of the Hon. TIMOTHY LESTER WOODRUFF upon new style fusion should fall. In the first place no man in public life has a keener eye to style than the Brooklyn statesman. In the second place the time is near at hand when no one will have time to pay attention to anything Mr. WOODRUFF may say about politics.

There is an engaging frankness about Mr. WOODRUFF's utterances at the moment. He is wholly, irrevocably and unalterably for fusion. But fusion must be founded upon substantial fact. To Mr. WOODRUFF's mind there is nothing dishonorable or even degrading in the local Republican party's fusing. He is satisfied that the fellow fusers should name the issues, moral and financial. He believes that the Republican party can afford to indulge the City Club, the Citizens Union, the several committees of One Hundred and the other inchoate outcroppings of municipal activity to any extent in the matter of platform. All in the world that Mr. WOODRUFF would ask for the local Republicans is the right to name the candidates.

There is no more convincing statement of the case than that made by Mr. WOODRUFF himself. He said yesterday:

"In speaking of fusion I do not mean the sort we had in 1901, when we all got together and spent the summer in dividing things up."

Here is the point: Mr. WOODRUFF is for fusion—but for fusion without division. There is nothing narrow about the matter, however. Division is to be prohibited only as to candidates. There is not the slightest objection on Mr. WOODRUFF's part to the participation of the independents in the campaign. Their contributions will be accepted without question. They will even be allowed to make speeches at times and places not too conspicuous.

In the latest edition of Baedeker's United States, a guide book not less interesting to Americans than to those so unfortunate as not to enjoy the blessings of our citizenship, the generally excellent sketch entitled "Constitution and Government of the United States" is from the pen of the Hon. JAMES BRYCE, who is described therein as the author of "The American Commonwealth." In the sketch this paragraph has a place:

"These legislative bodies (the State Legislatures) are not greatly respected, nor is a seat in them greatly desired by the better class of citizens. In a few States, such as New York, Pennsylvania and Louisiana, there is a pretty large proportion of corrupt members."

The startling effect of this severe criticism on our State lawmakers, coming from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, is considerably modified, however, when it is discovered that the Baedeker article was written before Mr. BRYCE entered the diplomatic service of his country. It was JAMES BRYCE, literary man and student of government, not the tactful and cautious Ambassador BRYCE, diplomatist, who uttered these sentiments.

We are almost afraid to differ even on a minor matter with the gentleman, a candidate for Mayor of Boston in 1905, who seeks damages of \$75,000 from the officers of the Good Government Association of that town. "Thinking in millions," however, he is excused if he forgets details. According to the despatches he told the jury that "two of his ancestors were burned as witches in Salem." It ought to be tolerably well known, even in Massachusetts, by this time that no witches were ever "burned" in Massachusetts.

An interesting detail in the direct nominations fight is supplied by the Albany Argus in the announcement that the Hon. ERSON W. HANM will not be a candidate for renomination to the Assembly. Mr. HANM was one of the relatively few Assemblymen to champion the Hughes direct primaries. He also came from the district where the Hon. JOHN RAINES still rules. Now he will not come any more, says the Argus, which does not seem to us a very wise decision.

As to the HANM's direct nomination, evidently as the cause of his retirement. Evidently the opponents of direct nominations are quite as ready as the Governor to continue the fighting, and the first blood is clearly there. The incident, moreover, does not tend to confirm the reports that all the up-State regions are in a state of revolt against the Governor's enemies.

## Dr. Aked's Strictures on the Emmanuel Movement.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The recent attack of Dr. Aked on the Emmanuel movement as reported in your columns is, to say the least of it, singularly unbecomingly and unbecomingly. I am sure that Dr. Aked, like myself, is an Englishman. Now I must confess that the English mind moves slowly and resents the introduction of an unfamiliar idea. I have, however, lived long enough in America to have this tendency in my own case somewhat modified. Nevertheless I retain sympathy with my compatriots who still labor under our racial weakness. It is in the spirit of sympathy that I venture to contradict the charges which Dr. Aked brings against the Emmanuel movement. After familiarizing myself at first hand with the following propositions, which I earnestly request Dr. Aked to ponder before he again discusses the subject:

The Emmanuel ministers do not substitute their work for that of the physicians. Not substitution but cooperation is their watchword. The Emmanuel movement is not a healing cult. It is an effort to do in a scientific manner what many ministers do in a slipshod and slovenly manner. The object of the Emmanuel movement is not to make people comfortable, but to take from them bad habits, such as the desire for alcohol, and to substitute good habits. Hypnotism is not used except in rare cases, and then by medical advice and under medical supervision. ERNEST JACOBSON. BROOKLYN, JUNE 4.

## WHAT IS TO BECOME OF HERBERT KNOX SMITH?

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The rumor to the effect that the President has asked the Hon. Herbert Knox Smith for a statement—showing, it may be presumed, the progress he has made thus far and expects to make within reasonable limits as to time and expenditure—is regarded by wise observers of public events here as a harbinger of precious import.

Nothing much has been heard of the Hon. Herbert Knox Smith for some time past. Immersed in a respectful contemplation of his own importance and attended by about a hundred and fifty dark deep and cunning sleuths entered on the pay rolls as "examiners," to say nothing of a swarm of clerical and other hirelings, he has long remained torpid, or at least fruitless; and so at last the President, a practical and perhaps capacious man, wants to know what he is doing.

He is supposed to be pursuing, identifying and preparing to capture the wicked corporations that so excited the wrath of his illustrious patron the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt. He has been some three years on the job, however, and as yet no scotch of serious importance depend from his august belt. Mr. Roosevelt's Attorney-General took a jocular view of the *battue*. He was a fellow of infinite wit, whose advice to all was to flush the covey and fire into it at random—anything for the gaiety of nations in general and the amusement of himself in particular. It made no difference to the Hon. Charles Joseph Bonaparte whether the larks fell to the bag of the Hon. Herbert Knox Smith or that of the Interstate Commerce Commission or that of the Department of Justice, over which he humorously presided—all of them being engaged in the same light hearted enterprise, with the limited money on tap and free pratique in everything.

Apparently Attorney-General Wickersham is of another temper. He sees the Interstate Commerce Commission and a bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor repeating the work he regards as properly within his jurisdiction. He sees nothing but a confusion of councils and a desert of achievement resulting from this disjointed if expensive activity, and he has begun to ask himself whether he is conducting the judicial end of the Government or whether it has been farmed out in eccentric instalments while he is left to concoct merry witticisms and blow fantastic bubbles in the changing light.

If President Taft has really made this overtone it may be suspected that Attorney-General Wickersham has inspired it. In that case the country may reasonably expect to see the pursuit and prosecution of wicked corporations concentrated in the Department of Justice, where they properly belong, and the functions of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the bureau of corporations lopped off until they make a neat fit with the real intention of the laws. If in the course of this halcyon readjustment the Administration could rid itself of a pestiferous horde of secret service men and an equally pestiferous leak in the Treasury, the result would be welcome and encouraging to all concerned.

THE BATTLE OF THE LEVELS. A Bomb Proof Canal Wanted. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The point easiest understood by common people is that the Panama Canal is a bomb proof canal. It is a canal that is easily put out of commission by a dynamite bomb.

The Panama Canal's military significance is a large reason for our "paying the freight." Better \$200,000,000 extra than a declaration of war justified as safe from a military point of view. A. N. FELLOWS. NEW YORK, JUNE 3.

## Progress of Historical Research.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Republics are proverbially ungrateful, but they should not be the home of ignorance. It is the mind of your correspondent "A Citizen" so ill trained that he has already forgotten that Seth Lowe was never President of the Board of Aldermen nor President of the City College, nor again of Pratt Institute.

Before that great and good man became Chairman of the Municipal Art Commission in 1902 he had been for many years head of the Parker Institute, the only true Brooklynite known to the large young ladies' seminary in Greater New York.

ANOTHER CITIZEN. BROOKLYN, JUNE 2.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I remember "A" and "B" are both wrong. Seth Lowe was president of the Consolidated Exchange Board of Aldermen but never president of the City College of Physical and Surgical. Seth Lowe was first president of Pratt College and his uncle of the same name was Mayor of a Long Island village, Brooklyn.

FAMILY BIOGRAPHY. NEW YORK, JUNE 3.

## Sociologists in Vacation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The editorial in the SUN of May 24, "Summer and the Sociologists," which does not seem to us a very wise decision, is a description of the East Side's attitude toward professional uplift, but I have read that editorial two or three times and have thought about it several times, and have been unable to discover what it is that makes you think that this is a season of "intense activity." If practical, will you not through your columns take a census of the sociological workers who are planning to spend the summer far from the masses on the East Side? EAST SIDE, JUNE 2.

Demosthenes Turned Aristides. From the Times Observer. The fact is that no man in the State needs more to learn what "direct nominations" are or should be than the important Davenport who helped to make the sacrifice and failure in the Legislature last winter.

Governor Hughes knew that—we are sure he did—when he named Davenport for the commission to go and get information on the subject. Let us and let us agree, even to those responsible for his nomination here, to those who have produced set down as an Onondaga county representative.

Clothes and the Vacation. Father wants to have it spent in Nature's loveliness. Where the fish in streamlets hide The fishermen to bliss. Where, above all other things, He does not need to dress.

Mother wants to have it spent With change of more than air; Wants a room to hold her trunk. For this is all her dream. Where, above all other things, Her new clothes she may wear.

Sister wants to have it spent Quite heedless of the view; All waste is proper noise. Coquetted with the wind. Where, above all else, is pressed The old suit ever new. MCLANDROUSE WILSON. BROOKLYN, JUNE 4.

## THE MISSISSIPPI RECORD.

Faster Than the Ruth, the Battleship Will Get Her Horns of Victory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In an editorial article in THE SUN of May 30 upon the run of the battleship Mississippi from Natchez to New Orleans in fourteen hours, it is conjectured that the Confederate tug W. H. Webb made better time during the civil war from the mouth of the Red River to New Orleans.

I am something of an authority on steamboat records in Western waters, having been familiar with them since the civil war. As for the Webb's run down stream, made just before my time, I have heard it discussed, but the Webb left no certified record.

June 27, 1907, the steamboat Ruth, a regular two week round trip packet running between St. Louis and New Orleans, tolled her departing bell at the Natchez wharf at 4:50 A. M. and landed at the New Orleans wharf, foot of Bienville street, at 8:05 P. M. on the same day, pilot house time. On May 25, 1907, the battleship Mississippi covered the same distance practically, but landing at Jackson street, New Orleans wharf, about two miles further up, a less distance, in say fourteen hours, probably not more than two hours.

Now in commemorating the fast run of the Ruth from Natchez to New Orleans, in fifteen hours four minutes, a pair of gold leafed horns was presented to her by her admirers, many river men then thinking that she was the fastest boat afloat. She holds the record even to-day for fast time from New Orleans to Donaldsonville, seventy-eight miles in four hours twenty-two minutes. The prize horns for this run were a fixture on the boat until she was run down by the Bay-Tow Island Chute, twelve miles above Vicksburg, in 1908.

My deceased father, Captain John A. Webb, was a regular passenger on the Ruth for twenty-two months and aboard her when she made the fast run mentioned. He once brought aboard on a business trip from New Orleans to St. Louis in four days nine hours and fifty-four minutes, in 1867, but that time was in the middle of the war—by the J. M. White, in three days twenty-three hours, in 1867; by the frigate Robert E. Lee, in three days eighteen hours and thirty-six minutes, and by the Natchez also in three days eighteen hours and thirty-six minutes.

While the Robert E. Lee holds the record from New Orleans to Natchez up stream, sixteen miles, in three days, in 1870, the Ruth held the record from Natchez to New Orleans, fifteen miles, in fifteen hours four minutes. This time stood for about forty-two years, you observe, and no one ever called for the special service, and no one ever called for it. They are all that's left as trophies of the fleet and of the magnificent Ruth, a champion in her day.

I have contemplated presenting these beautiful horns to the battleship Mississippi for her recent achievement. They are now being regilded with virgin American gold leaf, and I have ordered a diamond set of the American Eagle with ribbons, and in miniature a chased figure of the battleship Mississippi, in the time following: underneath in miniature the outlines of the Ruth and her time in minutes and seconds. No other floating craft has ever claimed them, while the battleship can do so. C. C. DUBIE. NEW ORLEANS, MAY 31.

## Shakespeare Not a Lawyer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I admire the humor of Mark Twain, subscribe to all his books, and collect his editions, and it seems to me that I ought to have some cause of action against him for his serious writings. Perhaps a word from you might stop him. The latest is that some silly lawyers have made him believe that Shakespeare was a lawyer, who never made a mistake in the use of law terms. He has written a book, "Shakespeare Dead," of which the argument is that a layman is certain to betray himself by using some expressions which a lawyer would never employ. Thus, Mr. Sidney Lee is no lawyer, for he says, "Shakespeare obtained judgment from a jury." Shakespeare must have been a practicing lawyer, for he never made such a mistake.

The dictum that there is not in Shakespeare any legal error, or any error equal to the alleged error of Sidney Lee in not saying verdict instead of judgment "casts ominous conjecture on the whole exploit" of these lawyers ever having read Shakespeare.

A course of instruction in the law, with Shakespeare as teacher, runs as follows: If a man borrow money, upon condition, he gives his "single bond." If he owe money he may be "arrested on the case" and without process. If he have a lawsuit, the plaintiff's declaration is a "plea in abatement," and a "replication" (as if you should say that the defendant complains to the plaintiff's answer).

When sued upon a bond containing an illegal condition, judgment will be given against him, but it is the duty of the plaintiff and not of the court and Sheriff to enforce the judgment, and he cannot elect to take less, &c.

He may make a deed of all his after acquired property. He may "demur" dignifiedly, and honorably, make a "plea in abatement," or may "entail" all his property "to a man and his heirs" forever upon condition subsequent.

The perplexed law student will be pleased to learn from the last instance that Shakespeare did not know the rule in Shelley's Case. Once for my sins I was compelled to study Lord Bacon's work upon the statute of uses, and therefore know that this great lawyer would have fallen in a fit if any one had told him that he had not taken to entail lands to a man and his heirs.

Of this subject it may be said, in the words of Lord Coke: "Herein the diligent student may disport himself for a time." But let one more example suffice. *Quæstio* says in the quarto: "A man of the law, a lawyer, a thief I tortured above the rate of common law." This is an error like a mountain. At common law torture is odious and has no rate or tolerance. He might as well have said he murdered above the rate of common law. Some of our friends have pointed it out to Shakespeare, and in the folio the error is corrected.

The errors in the use of technical legal terms in Shakespeare exceed in importance their correct use. JOHN B. GLEASON. NEW YORK, JUNE 3.

## BUBBLES OF SONG.

The Female Collegian and the Poet of Soda That Sweetly Flows for Her.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Why should all the sparkling and refreshing drinking songs of our college friends be fitted in sentiment only for the men? As a firm believer in woman's right to vote, &c., I have waited patiently for the day when she would be allowed to observe the men! As a firm believer in woman's right to vote, &c., I have waited patiently for the day when she would be allowed to observe the men! As a firm believer in woman's right to vote, &c., I have waited patiently for the day when she would be allowed to observe the men!

Don't you hear the call, my sister! Time to lay your books aside; Jump with me upon the trolley. To the village let us ride. Call it you see the others waiting; We will join them as we go. Gather round the soda fountain At the Palace Grand Store.

What a joy it is, my sister, When we've had the musky school. Quit our studies for the morning. For a draught of soda cool! Each one buys a pound of candy, But we must have soda too. Flavored with our own class colors— Nothing else for us will do. CROOKS. NEW YORK, JUNE 4.

## THE QUAKE IN ENGLAND.

The Cudgels for Germany Taken Up by Discerning Readers of History.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In response to the letter of Mr. Stebbings of Short Hills, N. J., I have not failed to say that I have not "smiled at British folk" having only restated three facts as published in THE SUN: The statement of Earl Roberts request to the colonies for free Dreadnoughts during the Spanish-American war; In regard to the wild panic in London in 1883, I merely referred to a historic instance of what